



Parents and role models create “teachable moments” by turning ordinary situations — like eating dinner or watching TV — into an opportunity to talk with kids about making good life choices. Before kids face situations involving alcohol or drugs, make sure they have the facts.

Synthetic, or man-made, marijuana is a mix of plant materials and chemicals that mimic the mind-altering effects of marijuana. It can be smoked or brewed as a tea.

Despite its harmless-looking packaging, which often shows popular cartoon characters, synthetic marijuana is dangerous and more powerful than marijuana. It is made illegally with no standards, consistency or safeguards.

Synthetic marijuana is commonly bought online. It is often sold as herbal incense, though it looks more like potpourri.



Street Names:

K2 and Spice are the most common names.



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|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| • Blonde | • Bombay Blue | • Mojo | • Standard |
| • Bliss | • Citron | • Red X Dawn | • Summit |
| • Black Mamba | • Genie | • Scooby Snax | |
| • Blaze | • Kush | • Space | |

The Effects of Synthetic Marijuana

Short-term effects are unpredictable and might last anywhere from one to eight hours.

- Hallucinations, delusions, psychotic episodes or paranoia
- Nausea and vomiting
- Feeling hopeless, unhappy, confused or agitated
- Inability to feel physical pain
- Raised blood pressure, increased heart rate or heart attack
- Shortness of breath or loss of consciousness
- Spastic body movements or seizures
- Profuse sweating or pale skin

Medical professionals do not yet know the long-term effects of synthetic marijuana since it is relatively new.

Use of Synthetic Marijuana Among Youth

Most of the chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana were made illegal in 2011. In 2015, Texas made it illegal to have chemicals made to mimic the effect of marijuana.

From 2010 to 2016:

- Almost 4,000 people called the Texas Poison Center Network after using synthetic marijuana.
- Forty-five percent of callers were younger than 20.
- More than 75 percent of callers were male.
- In 2011, nearly 30,000 people nationwide visited the emergency room because of synthetic marijuana use.



Signs of Use and Getting Help

Since synthetic marijuana is usually smoked, a strong clove smell could be a sign of use. Users often have pipes, screens or even a coffee grinder to create the powder for smoking. Keep an eye out for any behavior changes that might be signs of drug use (see *"How to Talk to Kids"* to learn more).

If you think your teen is using synthetic marijuana, talk to them and get help, if needed.

If you know your teen is intoxicated, contact **Poison Control** at **800-222-1222**.

Contact your local Prevention Resource Center to learn more:
hhs.texas.gov/prevention-resource-centers

Sources: 2010–2016 Texas Poison Center Network Statistics • Drug Enforcement Administration • Texas Controlled Substances Act
National Institute on Drug Abuse

The Teachable Moments series provides parents and role models information they can use to talk with kids about substance abuse. To learn more, visit **DrugFreeTexas.org**.



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